

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A stent for implantation into a vessel of a human body, the stent ~~being in the form of~~ comprising: a longitudinal axis, and a proximal end and distal end; the stent having a distal section comprising a plurality of circumferential sets of strut members, each set of strut members being longitudinally separated each from the other and each set of strut members forming a cylindrical portion of the stent, the stent also having a proximal section comprising at least three spokes, each spoke connected to the proximal-most circumferential set of strut members ~~of~~ at the distal section end of the stent, each of the spokes having a closed perimeter containing struts with an opening therebetween.
2. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the stent is self-expanding.
3. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the stent is balloon expandable.
4. (Currently amended) The stent of claim 1 wherein each spoke is only attached to the proximal-most circumferential set of strut members of the distal ~~section~~ end of the stent.
5. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein each spoke is connected to adjacent spokes by strut members, the strut members collectively forming a circumferential set of strut members at the proximal end of the stent.

6. (Original) The stent of claim 1 where each circumferential set of strut members comprises a plurality of connected curved sections, and the number of spokes is equal to the number of curved sections in the proximal-most circumferential set of strut members of the distal section of the stent.
7. (Original) The stent of claim 1 where each circumferential set of strut members comprises a multiplicity of connected curved sections and the number of spokes is less than the number of curved sections in the proximal-most circumferential set of strut members of the distal section of the stent.
8. (Original) The stent of claim 1 where each circumferential set of strut members comprises a multiplicity of connected curved sections and the number of spokes is more than the number of curved sections in the proximal-most circumferential set of strut members of the distal section of the stent.
9. (Original) The stent of claim 1 further comprising a stent delivery system having three radiopaque markers for positioning the stent at the ostium of a side branch vessel.
10. (Currently amended) A stent for implantation into a vessel of a human body, the stent having a longitudinal axis, a proximal end and a distal end, the stent having a cylindrical distal section and a split proximal section designed to be flared

outward with respect to the cylindrical distal section, the split proximal section containing a series of a series of spokes, each of the spokes having a closed perimeter containing struts with an opening therebetween.

11. (Original) The stent of claim 10 where at least some portion of the split proximal section includes a radiopaque material to enhance the radiopacity of the split proximal section.
12. (Original) The stent of claim 11 where the radiopaque material is coated onto the exterior surface of some portion of the split proximal section.
13. (Original) The stent of claim 11 where the radiopaque material is inserted into one or more holes in the split proximal section.
14. (Original) The stent of claim 11 where the radiopaque material includes gold, platinum, tantalum, iridium, palladium or tungsten, or alloys thereof.
15. (Original) The stent of claim 13 where the split proximal section further comprises individual spokes, with each spoke having a radiopaque insert.
16. (Original) The stent of claim 13 where the split proximal section further comprises individual spokes with every other spoke having a radiopaque insert.

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17. (Original) The stent of claim 13 where the split proximal section further comprises individual spokes with less than half of the spokes having a radiopaque insert.